AMENDMENT

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-12. (CANCELLED)

13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for pulse width modulated control of a plurality of load elements, the load elements being controlled in time staggered manner with respect to each other, the method comprising:

controlling the load elements by a common control unit with a common system clock in phase staggered manner;

predetermining, for each load element, an initial value and a final value, wherein the initial values of the load elements diverge from each other and the final values of the load elements are determined according to the pulse-break ratio; and

supplying each load element with current for a period of time between the respective initial and final value, wherein the load elements are resistive load elements in an electrically independent load circuit and are supplied from a common supply line.

14. (CANCELLED)

15. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method according to claim 13, wherein a common system clock in a common counter is counted up to a predetermined counter final value.

16. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method according to claim 13, wherein for different operating situations different phase shifts of the individual load elements with respect each other are predetermined.

17. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method according to claim 13, wherein at least one of the following parameters is determined:

a number of load elements to be currently controlled; or

a pulse width of the load elements to be currently controlled; or

an electrical power input or size proportional thereto of the load elements to be currently controlled with respect to each other; or

a harmonic content in a common supply line timed over the control of all load elements.

18. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method according to claim 13, wherein illuminants, such as lamps or LEDs, in a motor vehicle, are controlled.

19. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~A method according to claim 13~~A method for pulse width modulated control of a plurality of load elements, the load elements being controlled in time staggered manner with respect to each other, the method comprising:

controlling the load elements by a common control unit with a common system clock in phase staggered manner;

predetermining, for each load element, an initial value and a final value, wherein the initial values of the load elements diverge from each other and the final values of the load elements are determined according to the pulse-break ratio; and

supplying each load element with current for a period of time between the respective initial and final value, wherein a measurement arrangement is provided in the common supply line for detecting the harmonic content.

20. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A control circuit for pulse width modulated control of a plurality of load elements, the load elements being controlled in time staggered manner with respect to each other, the circuit comprising:

a common system clock; and

a storage region for each load element, wherein a pulse width and a phase position of the respective load element are stored ,wherein the load elements are resistive load elements in an electrically independent load circuit and are supplied from a common supply line.

21. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A control circuit according to claim 20 further comprising:

an initial value and final value for the phase staggered pulse width modulated control are stored;

a common counter, which counts the system clock up to a predetermined counter final value;

for each load element storage region an initial value and a final value are stored for the phase staggered pulse width modulated control; and

for each load element a comparator and a switch, which compares the counter state with the initial and final value and dependent therefrom controls the switch in the electric circuit to the load element.

22. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A control circuit according to claim 21, wherein a reset-input is provided at the counter, by which for all load elements the control can be jointly synchronized by resetting and restarting the counter.

23. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~A control circuit according to claim 20~~A control circuit for pulse width modulated control of a plurality of load elements, the load elements being controlled in time staggered manner with respect to each other, the circuit comprising:

a common system clock; and

a storage region for each load element, wherein a pulse width and a phase position of the respective load element are stored, wherein the storage region stores different operating situations and different phase positions of the individual load elements with respect to each other; and

a device for recognizing the current operating situation and selection of the phase position assigned to the current operating situation is provided.

24. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A control circuit according to claim 23, wherein a plurality of different phase positions of the individual load elements with respect to each other can be programmed via an interface and stored in the storage regions.